



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FOXTROT BATTERY, 1ST BATTALION, 40TH FIELD ARTILLERY
434TH FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA 73503-8026

29 November 2014

Commander, Fox Battery, 1st Battalion, 40th Field Artillery

Dear Parents, Family Members, and Friends:

I am CPT Craig McAlhaney, Commander of Fox Battery, 1st Battalion, 40th Field Artillery; your Soldier's commander for Basic Combat Training. I am writing to inform you your Soldier has arrived safely and begun Basic Combat Training here in the 434TH Field Artillery Brigade, United States Army Training Center.

I want to first welcome everyone to our organization and the Army family. The cadre that are training your Soldier are a very dedicated group of professionals. They are genuinely concerned about the health, welfare, and training of your Soldier. We consider your Soldier to be the most important asset of the Army's future.

During this training period, your Soldier is learning the basic skills that are required on today's modern battlefield. The training has been and will be very strenuous and demanding; however, the tasks learned and performed will help your Soldier develop the self-confidence and discipline needed to fight and win this nation's wars.

Your Soldier had the opportunity to call home during the first week of Basic Combat Training but phone privileges will be extremely limited for the next few weeks. Mail is delivered no different than civilian mail policies and Soldiers are afforded the opportunity to write and respond to letters regularly. Later in training your Soldier will have the opportunity to use the phone on weekends, most likely Sunday afternoons however the regularity is not guaranteed and is a privilege based upon good conduct and overall performance of your Soldier. I do encourage you to write to your Soldier as much as possible. Encouragement from home goes a long way in their current environment and keeps your Soldier motivated and engaged. Keeping your Soldier focused during this pivotal time in their training is paramount.

Our mailing address is:

Your Soldiers **Rank and Name**

Fox Battery, 1-40th FA your Soldiers **Platoon Number Plt.**

6050 NE Rothwell St.,

Fort Sill, Oklahoma 73503.

You can keep track of your Soldier's Basic Training Class and the milestones they have achieved on our unit's Facebook page. The Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/F-Battery-1-40th-Field-Artillery/361544960620218> Photos and updates are posted often so please "Like" the page and follow your Soldier through their Basic Combat Training experience.

An example of this letter as well as the graduation letter will be posted on the battery internet page. Welcome packets are only mailed to one address. Other family members that plan on attending Family Day or graduation can follow us on our Facebook page and can access the links through the battery internet page on the 434TH Field Artillery Brigade website <http://sill-www.army.mil/434/1-40/1-40f.html> .

The best means of notifying a Soldier should an emergency arise in training is through your local American Red Cross. The field office in your vicinity will contact the Lawton field office, which will then contact me. To do so by telephone, dial 1-800-RED-CROSS and follow the instructions for contact a military service member. Remember, your Soldier is in Fox Battery, 1st Battalion, 40th Field Artillery at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

If I can be of assistance in any matter relating to your new Soldier, please feel free to write or call my cadre or myself. Please view the following website for information on Fort Sill and the Basic Training program <http://sill-www.army.mil/434/index.htm> 24 hours a day.

Please ask your Soldier any of the questions about graduation or his follow up assignment, but should he/she not be able to answer your questions contact myself or my First Sergeant (First Sergeant Walker). The battery telephone number is (580) 442-6591. (NOTE: We cannot accept collect calls). You can also contact me via Facebook as well.

I look forward to meeting you and hope you are able to attend your Soldier's graduation. Thank you for the support of your Soldier!

ALL FOR ONE!

//ORIGINAL SIGNED//
CRAIG P. MCALHANEY
Captain, U.S. Army
Commanding